



***What are the prerequisites for college?***

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

So how's it going?

TROUBLEMAKER:

Getting arrested is not fun.

I took the blame for my ex- boyfriend, possession or whatever.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

I also heard you got cited for threatening another student.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Some call it a threat; I call it a strongly-worded warning.

Seriously, I thought I told you to stop talking to him. I'm going to punch you in the face if you keep talking to him. What?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

I'm worried about you. I've known you since you were in kindergarten. You once had the top math scores in your class.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Yeah, and no social life.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

That's not true and this isn't you. I know you and this isn't you. I'm not letting you off the hook. Have you thought about college?

TROUBLEMAKER:

It's a lost cause.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Why?

TROUBLEMAKER:

Um, have you seen my grades?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

You still have strong math scores. And you're actually doing pretty well in history and science.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Thanks to the girl sitting in front of me.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

That's not funny. I know you're not a cheater. It's important for you to start concentrating on your homework and grades.

Many colleges have entrance requirements that are based on a student's high school grades and test scores.

TROUBLEMAKER:

All I need to get some A's and B's to get into college? That's it?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Nope, there's a few other steps.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Ugh.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Along with submitting high school transcripts, other requirements may be requested such as submitting a written essay, taking the ACT or SAT, and immunization records. Some programs may even require a criminal background check.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Criminal background checks?! Perfect. I'll just pass those with flying colors.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Not one thing determines if you are accepted into a college or not. It's a combination of all that stuff that matters.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Are you sure?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Yeah. And each college is different. You might get into one but not another. Most people apply to a couple until they find the right one.

TROUBLEMAKER:

So how do I know which college will take me?

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

If possible, you should plan a visit with a college admissions counselor to see if they have a checklist of requirements and deadlines.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Oh great. That sounds exactly like what I need, another person telling me what to do.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

They don't just tell you what to do. They work with you so you can get into the college you want.

TROUBLEMAKER:

I still can't even believe I can go to college. It's expensive and I'm broke.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

There's plenty of scholarships and financial aid to help cover books, tuition and even living costs.

You can contact most scholarship programs directly and request application materials or visit web sites for more information. But you'll need to watch the application deadlines for financial aid, including the FAFSA and other scholarships. Those deadlines are really important.

TROUBLEMAKER:

Yeah, ask Mr. Jacobson how I am with deadlines. That old man is on the hunt for me today.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

If you really want to go to college, it's very important that you make it to school on time.

TROUBLEMAKER:

I am physically unable to wake up until ten. Nothing I can do about it.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

Do your parents help?

TROUBLEMAKER:

Hello. No I don't have money. Why?

TROUBLEMAKER (V.O.):

Yeah. My mom almost finished college but she dropped out. Now look at her, she's struggling.

TROUBLEMAKER:

I don't wanna be like that.

Mom. Mom. Stop. You're kind of hurting my ear. K. Whatever, I have to go. Umm I'll talk to you whenever I get home. Bye.

What are you doing, stop.

COUNSELOR (V.O.):

How about this, you make it to class on time and I'll help you with all your fees and deadlines. Do we have a deal?

Find a College

[ndus.edu](http://ndus.edu)

[nd-can.com](http://nd-can.com)

[aihec.org](http://aihec.org)

[college.gov](http://college.gov)

Pay for College

[fafsa.gov](http://fafsa.gov)

[nd-can.com](http://nd-can.com)

[studentaid.ed.gov](http://studentaid.ed.gov)

Prepare for College

[nd-can.com](http://nd-can.com)

[actstudent.org](http://actstudent.org)

[collegeboard.org](http://collegeboard.org)

For more information, call 1.800.554.2717.

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